

Design Resource

Making of Bamboo Frame - Agartala, Tripura

Traditional Handicraft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/making-bamboo-frame-agartala-tripura>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
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Introduction

On the bank of the Haora River, Agartala is one of the fastest developing cities in India. It is located 2 km from the Bangladesh Border. Agartala is India's third international internet gateway after the ones in Mumbai and Chennai. Chandmari is renowned for its Cane and bamboo crafts. Within bamboo production, each caste is assigned to occupation of its own. They are weaving, dyeing, and printing. For example, the making of the bamboo frame is assigned to weaving. Bamboo weavers bring these elements together to form the identity of Agartala artworks. This foundation of forming patterns through bamboo has emerged from the rural communities of this state.

Bamboo crafts have great demand in both domestic and international markets. Over the years, the use of wood for furniture and other products has challenged the environment. In recent years trees and forests are declining. Cane and bamboo are used to fulfill the need for wood. The cane and bamboo products are eco-friendly and are light in weight. These products have a high life with minimum maintenance. Bamboo strips are extensively used to manufacture different utility and decorative items. Bamboo trays, lampshades, baskets are woven and knitted by the skilled hands of the artisans. The other popular items of this craft are jewelry, bags, and frames.

Bamboo Frame:

Bamboo has been exquisitely used all over in Indian Craft and Culture. From a variety of baskets to frames, the Bamboo craft is grown immensely. A picture frame is a decorative edging for a picture, and to enhance it, make it easier to display or protect it. The frame, along with its mounts, protects and often makes the art look better. Art work framed well will stay in good condition for a long period of time. Photo frames preserve and add to the aesthetics of any photo. They can be arranged on end tables, shelves, and office desks or hung on walls. Photo frames are available for single photos or multiple photos, and they come in an infinite array of colours and sizes. People use traditional photo frames made of wood, bamboo, various metals, or other materials. It is possible to make a frame at home, and when it is hand-made, it acquires a special value and can also be an excellent gift idea. There are so many types of photo frames present, but the Chandmari bamboo frame is unique.

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Artisan involved in weaving bamboo frame.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and raw materials that are used for making of bamboo frame are:

- **Bamboo:** The essential raw material for the craft.
- **Billhook:** It is used for cutting, splitting, and slicing bamboo.
- **Glue:** It is used for sticking photos on to the frame.



Bamboo is the main raw material for tray making.

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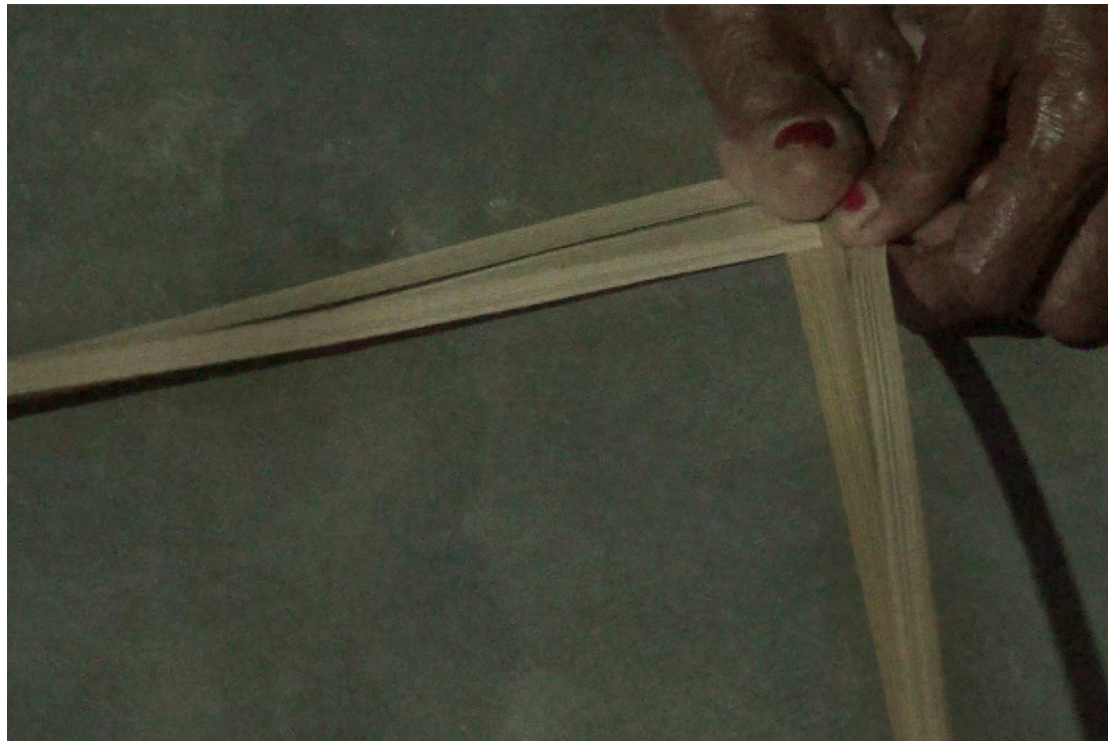
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Making Process

Materials required to make a photo frame are bamboo strips, glue, photo to be inserted, saw, scissor, billhook. One also needs to figure out the size of the photo to be fit into the frame. A measuring tape is used on the bamboo stripes for the correct size. The saw is used to cut the sticks of bamboo to the desired length. The bamboo sticks are cut at an angle on the edges to give the appearance. The larger or smaller size is made as per customers' needs.

The slit strips of bamboo are weaved to the previous strip. The bamboo strips are arranged in a criss-cross manner. The strips are arranged to intertwine like cording and give it a basic form that becomes easier to use. The bamboo strips are bend and arranged in the required manner. A small thin strip of bamboo is inserted into the base and frame to tighten and keep it stiff. The billhook is used to tuck the extra strips. Then the desired picture or photo is stuck into the bamboo frame. The picture is secured with tape, or a couple of the thick paper pieces are inserted between the back of the picture and the frame.



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Artisan bends and arrange the bamboo strip in the required manner.



A small thin strip of bamboo is inserted into the base and frame to tighten and keep it stiff.



A chisel is used to tuck the extra strips.

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A thin strip of bamboo is inserted on top of the frame to make a loop for hanging.



Artisan applying the glue on photo to stick it to the frame.



Beautifully weaved bamboo frame ready for sale.

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Products

A wide variety of products that are made using bamboo are mats, jewelry, household items, baskets, and tray. Nowadays, people are much concerned about the environment and switched to natural eco-friendly products. Bamboo products are among them. Bamboo Photo Frames of Chandmari are eye-catching. It can be used for gifting purposes due to its stunning appearance.



Beautifully woven bamboo frame.

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Video



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Contact Details

This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

You can get in touch with him at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Key Contacts:

Mr. Karthik Nama

Chanmari, Agartala,

Tripura, India

Mobile: 09089685560

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator

Project e-kalpa

R & D Campus

National Institute of Design

#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road

Bengaluru 560 022

India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054

Fax: +91 80 23373086

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

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